

Chicopee Register

A movement for equality



STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Protesters make their way from Szot Park to the Public Safety Complex last Saturday, marching for equality.

Residents call for an end to racism, brutality

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

“All lives cannot matter until Black Lives Matter,” was the theme of the June 6 march on the Public Safety Complex. Hundreds of men and women of all races, ages and backgrounds stood together last Saturday, declaring that Chicopee will never again tolerate racism.

Advocating for equality, the crowd embarked from Szot Park on Front Street, marched down Grove Street and advanced to the headquarters of the Chicopee Police Department on Church Street. The group passionately chanted at the outnumbered officers surrounding the building, demanding that all residents be treated fairly regardless of skin color.

“It’s important to make people uncomfortable so that they can then question them-

selves and determine whether they are on the right side of history or if they need a little bit more education. This is systemic; every institution has been plagued by racism. Sometimes it’s very evident and sometimes it’s very subtle, but it’s always present,” said Johnny Miranda, chair of the Chicopee Cultural Council.

The protest was one of many that have occurred in the United States following the May 25 killing of African-American George Floyd at

the hands of then-Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, who has since been fired, arrested and charged with second degree murder.

Frustrations arose locally on May 30 when it was revealed that Chicopee Police Public Information Officer Michael Wilk was responsible for a series of social media posts that stretch back eight years and were deemed by many to be offensive and racially insen-

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EDUCATION

With appointment, School Committee back to 12

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

A June 2 Special Meeting of the City Council and School Committee finalized the selection of Chicopee’s newest public official. Douglas Girouard, a lifelong Chicopee resident, is now an at-large member of the School Committee.

For nearly a quarter century, Girouard owned and operated Doogan’s Deli on Broadway Street before retiring, selling the business last July. When former At-Large School Committee member Michael Pise left the position

to become Mayor John Vieau’s chief of staff, Girouard was one of several residents who expressed interest in joining the board.

Last Tuesday, his aspiration was achieved. Girouard was named to the School Committee after John Ruck, the remaining finalist, withdrew his candidacy prior to the meeting.

“Just to inform both bodies, we received a letter and correspondence from John



Douglas Girouard

Ruck this morning indicating that he no longer wanted to be considered as a candidate to fill the vacant seat,” said Shane Brooks, City Council president.

City Council and the School Committee offered 23 votes in favor of Girouard’s selection; one committee member abstained from the vote. Girouard took his oath in the office of City Clerk Keith Rattell on June 3.

He previously ran for an at-large seat on City Council in

2015 but came up short behind Jerry Roy, James Tillotson, Robert Zygarowski and Frank Laflamme. His attempt to join the School Committee was much more fruitful.

For the past five months, the School Committee had operated with 11 members. The June 2 selection of Girouard extinguished a debate that had begun when Pise left the board in January.

During a Jan. 21 meeting of the School Committee, Ward 1 member James Tanhauser advocated for the board

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Funding gap looms at Riverfront

Will raise a flag in neighborhood

School Committee seat remains vacant

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Genealogist helps folks trace their ancestral roots

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

There’s no time like the present to trace your past. Chicopee resident Dave Robison, a professional genealogist, encourages curious residents to get reacquainted with their ancestors.

By definition, genealogy is a line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor. Over the past decade, Robison, owner of Old Bones Genealogy of New England, has led more than a dozen presentations in the Chicopee Public Library.

Robison explained that the act of tracing one’s genealogy has a variety of benefits. From discovering long lost relatives to medical histories and causes of death, pursuing the hobby can be both eye-opening and beneficial.

Records that pertain to birth, marriage, military service, death and probate all may be relevant today. So too might be

the collections of stowed away papers and antiques that exist in most households.

“Most people don’t have to even leave their couch because in most cases there’s that old chest up in the attic and there’s that big box of stuff that Grandma left that we never look at; it’s amazing what some people can find right in their own homes,” said Robison.

Online resources such as Familysearch.com and Ancestry.com are effective to a certain degree. Robison issued a warning, however, that the internet is best used as a mere starting ground.

“The illusion is that all you need is the internet, whereas only about 15 percent of what is really available out there is online. You really do have to either write a letter to a town hall or a courthouse or go and visit to get to the meat of the matter at



David Robison

hand,” he said, adding that “unsourced evidence is mythology.”

In Chicopee, public buildings such City Hall, the library and the courthouse are, perhaps, the greatest tools available to local genealogists. In the commonwealth, records dating back to the 17th century are frequently found in the archives of such buildings.

“We’re lucky in Massachusetts because our records go back to 1620. That’s a long time. About 1640 is when the towns started legislating that you had to keep birth records and death records. Those records that survived are priceless,” said Robison.

During times of normalcy, Robison frequently appears at functions throughout the state and region, researching with peers and coaching those interested on how to best access their family trees and

document their own existences.

Robison has continued his lessons on Zoom during the pandemic and is thrilled by the sustained interest that they’ve drawn. He noted that a June 8 virtual session with members of the Ludlow Senior Center went off without a hitch.

“The expression is, ‘What the fathers don’t want to remember, the sons want to know.’ Tell your story so that you can talk to your great grandchildren,” said Robison, explaining the appeal of genealogy.

Robison is currently serving a two-year term as President of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, a group that brings together family historians and genealogists from a variety of backgrounds while developing new strategies and ways of navigating record sources.

Readers interested in pursuing genealogy can contact Robison directly at dave@oldbones.info.

Price Rite donates to area food banks

KEASBEY, N.J. – Price Rite Marketplace announced its annual Check-Out Hunger fundraising campaign has raised more than \$131,000 for area food banks.

From November through December 2019, Price Rite Marketplace stores throughout Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island collected donations at checkout for food banks across the eight states its stores serve to support the fight against hunger. The supermarket brand has raised more than \$1.8 million for the Check-Out

Hunger initiative since 2002.

“Food insecurity has always been a challenge in our communities, but now, more than ever, our neighbors are faced with it, sometimes for the first time,” said Jim Dorey, president of Price Rite Marketplace. “We greatly appreciate the support and generosity of our customers and associates, whose contributions help make a difference in the communities we serve at a time when it is needed most.”

Among the food banks receiving assistance is the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Bluebird Acres sewer project progressing with land taking

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Progress has been made in the city’s endeavor to implement a public sewer system at Bluebird Acres Mobile Home Park. The city chose to intervene after the failing septic system at the trailer park on Kiwi Drive threatened to displace more than 100 residents.

Prior to the June 2 meeting of City Council, Mayor John Vieau announced that the city has taken eminent domain over parcels of land located at the park and along the Old Fuller Road Extension and Lombard Road.

“This is another step forward to helping out the residents who live at Bluebird Acres. This is an order of taking to help them; they have a private septic system there. We are doing everything we can to connect them to the public sewer system,” said Vieau.

Plans for a permanent parcel land taking, a permanent easement and three temporary construction easements necessary to complete the project have all been completed. The project is a cooperative effort between the city of Chicopee and the owner of Bluebird Acres, said Project Supervisor Quinn Lonczak in a letter written to Vieau on May 26.

Bluebird Acres falls in the vicinity of Ward 6, represented by City Councilor Derek Dobosz. Despite all that is occurring in and outside the city, the project continues to develop smoothly; Dobosz thanked Vieau and his colleagues for their commitment to the park’s inhabitants.

“This is part of the master plan to connect Bluebird Acres to the public sewer. This is a land grab that the city had to do in order to complete the project. I want to thank the Mayor and his staff for con-

tinuing to move forward with this project and hopefully we can stay on the right timeline,” said Dobosz.

On May 7, 2019, City Council approved a \$2,242,000 appropriation to be put toward the project. Construction costs will be split evenly between the property owner and the city.

The need for action arose when the state declared that a portion of the septic system at Bluebird Acres had failed. Dozens of the park’s tenants attended last year’s meeting.

That evening, upon witnessing the approval of the appropriation, Bluebird Acres tenant Bill Belanger stated, “It feels like a million bucks. We are united as a community again.”

Bluebird Acres consists of approximately 150 mobile home buildings and multiple administrative and maintenance buildings. In the absence of the project, the park would have been forced to remove more than 100 units.

Last year, the state’s Department of Environmental Protection listed the project as part of its Intended Use Plan for Clean Water and State Revolving Fund. When finished, the public sewer system will provide service to the entirety of the park with room to be expanded.

Over the past year, news of the project has sparked enthusiasm for residents throughout the city. Many see it as a milestone; a collaboration between public and private entities that will enhance the quality of life for all who live at Bluebird Acres.

“That’s the intent here,” said Vieau on June 2. “This is the next step; taking some land by eminent domain. It’s pretty self-explanatory. We’ve been working on this project for quite a while. I want to say thank you to the City Council for its consideration of this order.”

Ice cream personality to host Jimmy Fund Bingo Night on Facebook

BOSTON – Enjoy some family fun with the Jimmy Fund Bingo Night Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m. The live online game will be hosted by Ben & Jerry’s co-founder Jerry Greenfield and co-hosted by Sean Greenwood. The game will take place on the Jimmy Fund’s Facebook page.

To participate in the Jimmy Fund Bingo Night, a \$10 or more donation is suggested. Participants will receive

three cards. Confirmation details will be emailed to all participants prior to Friday evening. Winners of each round will receive fun prizes, including the Jimmy Fund Bingo “Champ” T-shirt provided by Chowdaheadz. All participants will be entered to win the grand prize.

For more information or to get Bingo cards, visit jimmyfund.org/events.

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66					67				68				

CLUES ACROSS

1. American composer

6. Very fast aircraft

9. Workplaces

13. A mount on a surface

14. Small freshwater fish

15. Double-reed instrument

16. Canadian flyers

17. Famed astronomer

18. Smooth, shiny fabric

19. Profited

21. Conspiracy

22. Infections

23. Chum

24. Secondary school (abbr.)

25. Resistance unit

28. Sound unit

29. Ancient city of Egypt

31. Crease

33. Polished

36. For goodness _!

38. College basketball tournament

39. Scorchers

41. Describe precisely

44. Thick piece of something

45. Frocks

46. Indicates near

48. Senior enlisted US Army member

49. A note added to a letter

51. A nose or snout

52. Clumsy

54. Satisfied to the fullest

56. Display of strong feeling

60. Popular awards show

61. Cuisine style

62. Expresses pleasure

63. Monetary unit of the Maldives

64. Utah city

65. Fight

66. Messenger ribonucleic acid

67. Body part

68. Suspiciously reluctant

CLUES DOWN

1. Fruit of the service tree

2. At some prior time

3. Mongolian city _

Bator

4. Strongboxes

5. Russian river

6. Gurus

7. Horse mackerel

8. Pearl Jam’s debut album

9. Confines

10. First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year

11. Famed Idaho politician

12. Prevents from seeing

14. Indicate time

17. Male parents

20. Tab on a key ring

21. The Great Dog constellation: _

Major

23. Frying necessity

25. Former CIA

26. The leader

27. Produces

29. London soccer club

30. Closes

32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean

34. Not present

35. Small drink of whiskey

37. Begat

40. Helps little firms

42. Pointed end of a pen

43. Fencing swords

47. Inches per minute (abbr.)

49. Hymn

50. Philippine island

52. Flemish names of Ypres

53. A way to inform

55. Small lake

56. Linear unit

57. Central Japanese city

58. Partially burn

59. Sports award

61. Part of your foot

65. Atomic #21

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

Celebrating unsung heroes during coronavirus pandemic

We hear stories—rightly so—about people at work on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis, such as doctors, nurses and first responders. Occasionally we hear stories about folks stocking grocery shelves, prepping take-out orders or manning the pharmacy counter. All these people working to help others are community heroes.

This story is about the unsung heroes who go quietly about their crucial work supporting vulnerable individuals. They help folks with disabilities living in the community by providing outreach and support. Two such unsung heroes are Alizamari Diaz and Robert Laviolette.

Diaz and Laviolette are members of the outreach team in MHA's Integration and Community Living Division. They work closely with vulnerable adults who need help in their daily lives due to developmental or intellectual disability, often complicated by concerns with their mental health. Most often, these folks have no family of their own. The Outreach Team are the familiar faces and voices they count on, every day.

Diaz and Laviolette are passionate about keeping people safe during the COVID-19 crisis, but recently the pain of personal loss hit close to home. Diaz's dear friend of nearly 20 years died of COVID-19 in Atlanta, Georgia, just days after returning home from a family reunion in New York City. Laviolette's older brother, a U.S. military veteran, contracted COVID-19 as a resident of the Holyoke Soldier's Home, and he died as a result.



Alizamari Diaz (left) and Robert Laviolette, members of MHA's Outreach Team, have helped make a difference in others' lives while facing loss in theirs due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Despite these traumatic losses in their own lives, the two have continued to work every day, serving others. "What am I going to do, sit at home and feel sad?" Laviolette said. "Working is therapeutic in a way, and the folks I work with count on me. They became like family."

Diaz concurs. "I love what I do. This is work that comes from the heart, and sometimes you have to put your own feelings to the side and be there for the people you care for. I feel like they've saved me

with all that I've been going through. One of my clients cheers me up every single day. We eat lunch together. I get him his coffee, and I feel like I owe it to him to be there for him. These folks don't even know all the impact they have in my life. I'm glad to be there for them."

MHA's Outreach Team provides personal support to individuals with chronic mental health challenges, those experiencing cognitive, intellectual or developmental challenges and those living with

an acquired brain injury. Outreach staff members help these folks to live with greater independence in the community. That can involve helping them with aspects of home life, such as meal preparation, going over their mail, helping them to manage their money and pay their bills, and accompanying them on trips to the store. In some cases, Outreach Team members advocate for their clients with landlords and at doctor's appointments.

"People don't choose this career for the paycheck; they choose it to make a positive impact in the lives of vulnerable people," Diaz said. "And in the process, their lives are also positively impacted. The help truly goes both ways. While dealing with the grief of just having lost by friend to the coronavirus, seeing the people I care for did just as much to help me. They saved me."

"Our community outreach model is personal by design," said Kim Barbero, who leads the Outreach Team for MHA. "Staff engage with individuals living independently in their homes and community settings, focusing on activities of daily living and ways to help folks increase their independence. The frequency of meetings varies with individual need, from daily to just a couple visits a week. We have 27 members of our Outreach Team, and each one does an incredible job in this vital role because of the concern and passion they have for the people in their care. It speaks to the character of everyone who works on the team."

RV industry booming despite pandemic challenges

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

Make no mistake about it, the RV industry is booming. As the travel industry struggles, residents looking to vacation are investing in an alternate mode of transportation, and dealers are cashing in.

"We have everything in place. We don't have to invent anything," said Bob Zagami, executive director of the New England RV Dealers Association. "People want to have a great time with their families, they want to be outdoors in the fresh air, they want to go hiking, biking, fishing or just sit around the campfire and talk to the kids. We have the industry that will allow them to do that."

Nine million RVs are already on the road in the United States and 400,000 new RVs are sold each year, said Zagami. From \$6,000 pop-up campers to million-dollar motor homes, the industry has much to offer.

"Take any aspect of it that you want, the whole industry is showing positive increases and accessibility across markets that we'd never thought of before," said Zagami.

COVID-19 has been tough on many, but the rising demand for motor homes has kept Zagami's industry functioning well. He shared insight on why RVs have become one of this spring's hottest commodities.

"Airlines are going to take years to

come back. Cruise ships? I don't know what they can do short of giving out free passes to get somebody back on a ship," said Zagami. "As we make more people aware of our products and services and as the people who already practice RV-ing talk to their friends and relatives about it, it's general consensus that RVs are the only chance that we've got for people to recreate and try to forget the past two months and the impact that it's had on their lives."

One recent weekend, a member of the association was able to sell 27 units in one weekend, Zagami said. He added that "anything you can have in your house today; you can have in an RV."

From trunk trailers to fifth-wheelers and park models, mobile homes come in all shapes and sizes. For people planning a vacation or just looking to temporarily leave their surroundings, they can be a resource of great value.

"People want to go on vacation; they want to spend time with their family. We're just saying, 'Hey, we have a better way to do it.' Quite honestly, the industry is working on a campaign just for that. The message is going to get out there that says, 'Hey, if you're going to do anything this year, you're probably going to do it in an RV,'" said Zagami.

The New England RV Dealers Association represents RV dealers in all six New England states and is based out of Hudson.

New law preserves municipal governance during pandemic

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives passed a bill June 4, to provide governance and fiscal flexibility for municipalities grappling with public health challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill was signed by Gov. Charlie Baker Saturday, June 5.

"While dealing with this public health crisis, local municipalities need to be able to adapt business as usual to be productive during continually uncertain times," said Sen. James T. Welch (D-West Springfield). "This bill provides some relief as local communities to further address the needs of residents while mitigating the effects of the pandemic."

Building off of other legislation that gave municipalities operating flexibility during the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, the bill further protects public health and preserves the town meeting structure from continued disruptions caused by the state of emergency.

The bill permits representative town meeting to take place virtually; permits quorum reduction for open town meeting to no less than 10 percent and extends the quorum reduction to representative town meeting; allows town meeting to be held outside the geographic limits of the town; and permits a municipal election scheduled through June 31 to be extended to Aug. 1 at the latest.

The bill also provides city governments with fiscal relief by allowing mayors to delay their normal budget submission deadline for Fiscal 2021 in light of the state of emergency.

Finally, among other provisions, the bill strengthens the prohibition on terminating essential services for residents during the COVID-19 emergency and provides municipalities and regional school districts flexibility in paying school bus and other vendor contracts.

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OFF THE BEAT AND TRAIL

Slippery scales and serpent tales

Western Massachusetts, and in particular, Hampden and Wilbraham, holds a special significance surrounding slithery serpents in this country.



Tyler Witkop

One of the nation's earliest ballads, "On Springfield Mountain," takes its name from the hill in present day Hampden and Wilbraham, when, on Aug. 7, 1761, Timothy Merrick was bitten and killed by a timber rattlesnake only days before he was set to be married to Sarah Lamb. At the time, the two towns were one, and the incident is believed to have taken place while Merrick was tending his father's fields, which extended to present day Hampden.

The incident inspired a ballad that has seen numerous adaptations in the time since, but was one of the last known deaths by rattlesnake bite in Massachusetts until recently.

Rattlesnakes have been basking in the hot seat of regional politics, when a few years ago, the state hoped to introduce the endangered timber rattler on a publicly-inaccessible portion of land within the Quabbin Reservoir – connected to land by a narrow causeway. Those plans were abandoned after public outcry.

Snakes, however, keep a constant presence. Fortunately in Massachusetts, only the timber rattlesnake and copperhead are venomous. They are both considered endangered by the commonwealth but there are other, non-venomous snakes that slither and slide through the woods. Like milk snakes, rat snakes, garter snakes and water snakes. While they are non-venomous, they can still get in the way of a good time.

This past weekend, I had several run-ins with my own "pesky serpents," and that will leave quite an impression.

With sunshine and temperatures making outdoor recreation a pleasant experience, I decided that fishing would be a great way to pass my time, joining some family members at the Quabbin. While none of us caught anything, we were struck by the abundance of snakes, particularly water snakes, that decided now was the time to mate along the banks. In fact, there were no less than five that we counted in a 30 yard stretch by the boat launch of Gate 8.

Sliding in and out of the rocks, wrapping around each other and snaking their way through the water, they were truly an entertaining sight to behold. We left them alone and they left us alone, giving us something to see on an otherwise uneventful morning.

When our time at the Quabbin was over, I decided on my way home to stop by the Chicopee River, on the border of Ludlow and Wilbraham at Red Bridge. Fortunately, once the severe storms moved through, it didn't take long to find a fish – a brown trout about 12 or 13 inches. Unfortunately, it swallowed my hook into the gills and would not survive, so I decided fresh fish was perfect for the dinner menu. Apparently, great minds think alike, because another creature had similar ideas.

Without a stringer, I left my catch on the rocks where water could keep it from drying out in the sun. I thought little of it as anything that decided to take my fish, even the river, would have to deal with me. So I thought.

Maybe an hour later, my lure wedged into some rocks. Leaving my post for about a minute, I was able to free the snag and save my lure. When I returned, there was no fish to be seen. Anywhere. I looked under rocks, stuck my hand in places I couldn't see and scanned the water. Nothing. My fish disappeared. Could it have been a sneaky heron? Did the river reclaim its child? Did it some-

See **SNAKES** page 5

GUEST COLUMN

Joan E. B. Coombs



When barn swallows rule the roost

Looking at life from a bird's eye view is a unique perspective. A bird's eyesight far surpasses normal, human eyesight. And, a barn swallow can spy from the sky a spec of a meal. Dive to dine. Swoop. Scoop. Done deal. Fast food. Meal appeal.

As tiny, yet as mighty as barn swallows are, they are experts at winging it. Everything. As a matter of fact, there have been and still are times when they absolutely "rule the roost." In plain words, they are the dominating and principle owner of any place they perch and plan to settle their brood to-be.

Also, like children, barn swallows play in fields, meadows and barnyards. After late spring and early summer rains, they kid around in mud puddle pools. Then, as grown up, work-a-birds, they craft mud-grass nests



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eggs of barn swallows, captured by the author's husband, will soon hatch and bring about more "rulers of the roost."

that invariably get plastered against a building, or hung out in a barn nook, or tucked under eaves. Their nests are built specifically, annually, however, and wherever they intend to rule the roost. Their realm. They rule.

And, for the third year, any and all attempts at maintaining a private entry, free

from the 30-40 mile per hour takeoff and landing flight patterns have failed. Neither barn-red broom brush, nor shiny, reflecting tree-trim wrapped on the under-the-eaves, light post fixture – only one foot from the front door – has deterred their roost!

Enter and exit barn swallows: birds that are often monogamous-partners soaring, darting and spending hundreds of hours creating a mud-pie-thatched nest for the coming brood. The batch of three to eight eggs needs at least two to three weeks of incubation before they hatch. About three weeks later they can fly from the nest as fledglings.

Enter and exit humans: who knock on the front door when leaving. "We gotta let them know when we're going out. 'Don't want to startle them and have bird's nest bombshells all over.'"



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

State, school districts should consider race relations courses

To the editor:

Many problems in American society have been addressed through education. Educating citizens has been a positive way to implement change. Change is needed to improve lives. At this time, change is needed to improve race relations. Racism does exist. Racism must be addressed, as we live in a multiracial society.

The state of Massachusetts and all school

districts should consider race relations courses in high school. These courses could be a requirement for high school graduation. Learning about other races is a mind opening experience. Learning can teach respect, tolerance and appreciation for the cultures of all people.

Marybeth Costello
Chicopee

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, per-

sonal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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Chicopee Register

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The late spring border is ripe with the color blue

By high summer there are very few perennial flowers blooming in shades of blue. We best enjoy them now, while we can. Blue flowers abound in the late spring border! You could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones. Here are my selections:

For the back of the border, try *Amsonia tabernaemontana*. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star. Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, *Amsonia* almost qualifies for “specimen” status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like peony or dictamus. Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden, it self-sows, but not usually enough to make itself a nuisance.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is *Baptisia australis*, or false indigo. Gray-green foliage

is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid-June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, *Baptisia* is a nice specimen perennial; one plant is certainly enough per grouping. The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish. Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised. Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn floral arrangements.

One of my favorite blue flowers is *Aquilegia vulgaris*. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grew the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village. It can be found in white, pink,

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tended to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe, perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue. If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult; maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals? Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or partial shade will grow decent two-foot to two-and-a-half-foot wispy plants, a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials. There is nothing rare about *Centaurea montana*, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their

lovely true blue shade. For years I managed to keep a clump going; it finally succumbed to chipmunks who demolished the plant trying to get at the flowers and seed pods. At 18 inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.

If you are still in need of more blue flowers, there are also numerous iris, lavender, campanula and spiderwort cultivars waiting to be discovered. Have fun planning a cool border this summer.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

Baystate: Don’t skip child visits, vaccinations during pandemic

SPRINGFIELD – It’s a message that all parents and caregivers need to hear: Don’t skip your child’s vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Since March, we have been seeing the rate of under-immunized infants double from 25 percent to 50 percent. This means that in our community, 50 percent of babies under 18 months old have not completed their immunization series,” says Dr. Chrystal Wittcopp, medical director of pediatrics at Baystate High Street Health Center.

Statewide, the Massachusetts Department of Health has reported a 68 percent decrease in pediatric vaccinations.

“Although COVID-19 is a very serious illness and can affect children, the illnesses to protect against with vaccinations are more common and more harmful as far as we can tell for young children. It is critical to still protect them against those diseases in this COVID era,” said Wittcopp.

Missing important vaccinations puts

children at risk of preventable diseases such as measles, whooping cough, meningitis and other life threatening illnesses. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that for children born between 1994 and 2018, immunizations will prevent about 419 million illnesses, 8 million hospitalizations and 936,000 early deaths.

So, why are parents skipping child wellness visits, which often include necessary vaccinations?

“They are concerned for their child and themselves that they might pick up the novel coronavirus while visiting their pediatrician’s office. But, we have taken every precaution to keep our offices safe for our young visitors and their parents,” said Dr. John O’Reilly, chief, general pediatrics, Baystate Children’s Hospital.

At Baystate’s pediatric primary care practices, new safety and infection control procedures are in place, including: all individuals being asked questions regarding health symptoms; giving hand sanitizer

and surgical mask; temperature monitoring; spread out appointments to minimize the number of people in waiting areas and only one adult may accompany a pediatric patient. Potentially sick children are separated from healthy patients/patrons.

During the early months of a baby’s life, they receive key infant immunizations to protect them from common childhood diseases such as whooping cough, common blood infections, and pneumonia. Babies are susceptible to whooping cough – a disease that can be fatal for them but prevented with vaccination. At age one, babies receive their first measles vaccine.

“We know that there have been measles outbreaks across the United States and Massachusetts in the last several years. It is still in our community and it is important to protect them,” said Wittcopp.

As children grow to ages 4 and 5, their immunizations begin to wear off. It is important for them to have a booster dose to continue protection against those

diseases, especially as they increase exposure at school.

At age 11, children receive another booster vaccine for tetanus and whooping cough to protect them through middle and high school. At that visit, they also receive vaccines against a type of meningitis seen in teens and young adults and against HPV, a virus that can cause cancer in both males and females. Teens will later get a second booster vaccine for meningitis and HPV to be sure they are fully protected.

“We are here. We are seeing patients in person and via telehealth. If you have questions or concerns, call us and we will find the best way to get your child the most appropriate care,” said Wittcopp.

Baystate High Street Health Center Pediatrics will be holding vaccine-only clinics on select Saturdays in June to provide access to those families who have difficulty coming into the office during the week.

For more information, call 413-794-2525 or visit Baystate Health Children’s Hospital at baystatehealth.org/bch.

Harvard Pilgrim Foundation awards nearly \$230,000 in grants

WORCESTER – A total of 25 central and Western Massachusetts nonprofits have received nearly \$230,000 from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation for COVID-19 relief efforts.

Among those to receive grant funding is Lorraine’s Soup Kitchen & Pantry in Chicopee and Greater Springfield Senior Services Inc.

“Now more than ever it is so critical to support our communities and organizations who are providing services to those residents of central and western Mass. impacted by COVID-19,” said Patrick Cahill, vice president, Massachusetts market lead for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, parent company of Harvard Pilgrim Foundation. “The impact of this pandem-

ic is enormous and right from the start we responded to the immediate needs facing nonprofit partners and communities. We are very grateful to all who are helping to feed and care for our community members, and we are committed to supporting them in the weeks and months ahead.”

Other recipients as part of Harvard Pilgrim Foundation’s COVID-19 Assistance Fund include Gardening the Community, of Springfield, Nuestras Raices Inc., of Holyoke, and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation committed more than \$3.5 million in initial grants for COVID-19 relief efforts in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut.

retrieve dinner, the snake darted back and grabbed it again, heading for the current. Determined not to be foiled by nature, I returned to my discipline. Once again, it surrendered my meal and retreated to the shelter of the rocks. Unfortunately it appears the snake didn’t learn a lesson, as my fish was taken into the current, where again, the thief darted and made its meal from what was supposed to be mine.

It was an unbelievable experience and one I will not soon forget, though I will take solace knowing that fish made it into a belly. But I’m not a fan of thieves and pesky serpents in particular. Next time I won’t let my guard down.

Hall of Fame coins now on sale

Proceeds to help grow the game of basketball

SPRINGFIELD – In keeping with the mission to preserve the legacy and grow the game of basketball, basketball fans will have the opportunity to own a piece of the game’s history while supporting the sport’s future with the launch of a commemorative Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame coin.

“This endeavor has been years in the making and we couldn’t be more excited to be launching a commemorative coin with the U.S. Mint this week,” said John Doleva, of Wilbraham, president and CEO of the Hall of Fame. “These coins are a unique opportunity for fans to own a piece of basketball history while supporting the Hall and the game itself, as the funds generated will allow us to bolster our endowment, educational programs and ever-growing portfolio of events.”

Located in the Birth City of Basketball, Springfield, Hall of Fame promotes and preserves the game of basketball at every level. Since the Basketball Hall of Fame opened its doors in 1959, it has operated as a nonprofit organization relying on the generosity of others to preserve the legacy of the game. The commemorative coin sale launched June 4.

Creating a coin was a multi-year effort by U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, U.S. Rep. Andy Barr, and Sens. Elizabeth Warren and the late John McCain, along with countless Hall of Fame members.

Coins will be available on a first-come-first-served basis and orders will be limited to one coin type/finish per person, while supplies last. Customers should enter the South Side of the property (Hilton Garden Entrance) where Hall of Fame staff will provide instructions. State of Massachusetts directives regarding COVID-19 protocols will be followed.

The U.S. Mint will be accepting orders online at catalog.usmint.gov.

Pricing for the \$5 gold coins is based on the Mint’s “Pricing of Numismatic Gold, Commemorative Gold, and Platinum Products” table at catalog.usmint.gov/coins/gold-coins.

Mintage for this commemorative coin program is limited to 50,000 \$5 gold coins, 400,000 silver dollar coins, and 750,000 half dollar coins. Coin prices include surcharges of \$35 for each gold coin, \$10 for each silver coin and \$5 for each half-dollar coin, which are authorized to be paid to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, to fund an endowment that will enable increased operations and educational programming.

SNAKES from page 4

how skip thousands of years of evolution and sprout legs?

After several minutes of looking and uttering words that cannot be repeated, I found my answer, as from seemingly nowhere, I saw a trout’s body swim in front of me. Upon closer inspection, the fish wasn’t swimming, it was halfway out of the mouth of the largest water snake I have seen.

Hastily I sought to retrieve my dinner, smacking the beast with my rod tip. It took several strikes before it gave up my fish, which floated back to the surface at the edge of my reach. But before I could

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Big Y names new appointments

SPRINGFIELD – Big Y Foods recently announced its new appointments within the company. Elisa M. Przybylek, of Chicopee, has been named corporate accounting supervisor at the Big Y Store Support Center in Springfield.

“At Big Y, we are committed to providing the tools and training necessary to support our employees in their development,” Michael Galat, vice president

of employee services at Big Y, said. “We look forward to their growth in pursuit of excellence as they personally develop their own skills in order to take on these new levels of responsibility.”

Big Y is an independently owned supermarket chain that operates 83 locations in Massachusetts and Connecticut, including store on Memorial Drive in Chicopee.

Chicopee students earn Dean’s List honors

WORCESTER – Assumption College announced those students who have been named to the College’s Dean’s List for the spring 2020 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.50 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

From Chicopee are Natalia Kaczor and David Ortiz, both members of the Class of 2020.

“This semester, our students faced unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic,” said Francesco C. Cesario, president of Assumption College. “Following a rapid transition to remote learning, students adapted to the new form of education delivery amid difficult circumstances. The Assumption community is proud of these students who, despite the distractions of the COVID-19 situation, were able to remain focused and maintain a commitment to their academic programs.”

Doyle inducted into honor society

SPRINGFIELD – Michael Doyle of Chicopee was welcomed into the Tau Beta Pi National Honor Society May 15 at the Western New England University chapter’s annual induction ceremony. Tau Beta Pi is a national honor society for engineering students. To be elected, students must demonstrate outstanding scholarship and professional integrity. This year’s induction ceremony was held virtually.

Dr. S. Hossein Cheraghi, dean of the

College of Engineering, said “We commend all of you on your outstanding efforts in completing your degree requirements in an online learning environment. We are inspired by your resiliency and hard work during this hard time. We may not be together physically, however, we are all a part of the College of Engineering family.”

Doyle is graduating with a BSE in mechanical engineering.

Albertson graduates from Becker College

WORCESTER – Becker College announced that Austin Albertson, of Chicopee, has graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in interactive media design,

game production and management concentration. Albertson was one of more than 430 students recognized at a virtual commencement celebration.

Rebecca Gauthier named to Plymouth State President’s List

PLYMOUTH, N.H. – Rebecca Gauthier of Chicopee, has been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the spring 2020 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the Spring 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. Gauthier is a meteorology major at Plymouth State.

Lillian Roberts graduates from UVM

BURLINGTON, Vt. – Lillian Roberts of Chicopee, graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor of Science degree in communication science and disorders during commencement ceremonies May 17, the university announced.

The university conferred degrees this year on some 3,183 graduates, including 2,415 bachelor’s, 533 master’s, 114 doctoral and 121 medical degree recipients. The Class of 2020 includes graduates from 39 states and 30 countries.

GIROUARD from page 1

to remain at 11 members, noting that an even-numbered 12-person committee had created division in the past when votes became deadlocked.

“The board has an even number of voting members if this seat is retained,” said Tanhauser on Jan 21. “With only 11 members, each Ward still has representation while having an at-large member and the chairperson representing citywide. A \$6,000 salary can be removed from the books and invested back into our city’s education.”

During the same January meeting, Tanhauser voiced his hesitation to add a member to the board without a public vote. That evening, he explained the logic behind his claim.

“Voters decided that I earned my position. Voters decided that all of you earned your position,” he said. “Why should our city have one decision maker chosen by his peers and subvert all voter opinion?”

Tanhauser was among the first School Committee members to wish Girouard luck during the board’s June 3 meeting.

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- Phone, video calls, or screen sharing
- Electronic signature for documents
- Livestreaming memorial services

To the families keeping safe at home, to those that have to go out to work, and for everyone doing all they can during this uncertain time, we thank you. We want you to know that we, too, are doing all we can to keep our community safe and healthy.

No matter what you need, we are here to help - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - today and always. If you have any questions, call us at 413-283-9061.



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CHICOPEE COMP

Colts girls track had senior-heavy lineup

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School girls track team had a heavy senior lineup returning to the track and field events this spring.

Unfortunately, their big season was cut short by the coronavirus pandemic.

Coach Graham Raymond projected a great campaign.

“We were going to have a strong outdoor track season,” he said. “We would have had the best group of throwers we have ever had at Comp. If I had to guess I would think we would have a strong regular season and possibly have placed in the top five at the Western Mass meet.”

His captains this year would have been Liz Berroa, Sarah Buckley, Sophie Warren, and Megan Wojcik.

Wojcik is a high jumper who qualified for Western Mass. several times in her career and is also the Valedictorian of the Class of 2020.

Berroa was a middle distance runner for the Colts.

“She would have probably went to Western Mass in the 400 meter or 800 meter and been on one of our relays,” said Raymond.

Buckley was hurdler and Raymond believes she had a chance to go far this year.

“She is an outstanding hurdler who has placed high at Western Mass in the 100 hurdles in the past,” said Raymond. “She would have had a great senior year hurdling and possibly went to states.”



FILE PHOTOS
Amber Maslak competes in an indoor track meet. She would have been a senior with the Colts outdoor track team this spring.

Giavanni Thomson set the school record in the discus throw. She was a third-place finisher in Western Mass. and Raymond believes she would have been a favorite in the event this year.

Warren won the shot put during the indoor track season and was a top contender for outdoor this year. She placed fifth in Western Mass. in the discus event last year.

See **TRACK** page 8

SUMMER SOCCER

Kolodzieys ready to start PVSSL in Phase 3

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – As the picture becomes clearer, it looks like we will have summer soccer in the Pioneer Valley for high school students.

High school students have been away from one another since March 16, which essentially all education was shut down throughout the Commonwealth. Eventually, all recreation and activity was shut down as well.

Last Saturday, Gov. Charlie Baker announced the provisions of Phase 2 of the re-opening plan as Massachusetts continues to stay on a good course with lowering numbers of coronavirus cases, deaths, and hospitalizations.

With the start of Phase 2, the “cautious” step, the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is making plans for its return to action.

Just a few weeks ago, the coordinators of the league, Chris and Diana Kolodziey, were non-committal about whether or not there would be a season due to the uncertainty surrounding the re-opening and whether it would have to be delayed or scaled back.

However, they were always

See **SOCCER** page 8



Megan Wojcik makes an attempt during indoor track championship. She would have been a contender for Western Mass. in high jump this spring.

YOUTH SPORTS

Spec Pond Basketball League will have no fans to start season

Rules will be implemented as necessary for the outdoor basketball league

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

WILBRAHAM – One of first youth sports the area could see will be based out of Spec Pond in Wilbraham sometime next month.

Only this summer, it could look a lot different for a while.

For several years, the Spec Pond Summer Basketball has been both a nightly and a weekend gathering place for many young basketball players and their families, which utilize the surrounding amenities during games.

Bryan Litz, the director of Wilbraham Parks and Recreation, organizes the league each



FILE PHOTOS
The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League is planning to have basketball this summer once Phase 3 of the re-opening plan begins in Massachusetts.

year. He welcomes many teams from out of town, including Agawam, Southwick, Springfield, Ludlow, Belchertown, Ware,



Chicopee, Palmer, and even as far as Sturbridge.

There are divisions ranging from third and fourth graders all



the way up to the high school level. There are both boys and girls teams and the typical night has games being played every hour from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the two outdoor courts. Area schools are utilized in the event games



must be made up due to rain.

The season carries on through July and early August and then playoffs happen in mid-August with the champion-

See **YOUTH** page 8

Bay State Summer Games events cancelled through July

REGION – All Bay State Games events originally scheduled for May 30 through July 26 will be cancelled in consideration for the health and well-being of all athletes, officials, coaches, medical staff, and volunteers. The challenges and uncertainty that COVID-19 has presented prevent the organization from appropriately planning, organizing, and producing events in 30 different sports this year.

This summer, Bay State Games was set to celebrate its 39th annual Summer Games. Due to multiple venue cancellations, the inability to conduct team sport tryouts in June, decisions by sport governing bodies to suspend competitions, medical committee concerns, as well as other factors, the Summer Games will not be able to proceed as scheduled.

“We are committed to the health and well-being of our constituents. It is of the

utmost importance to keep everyone safe during these unprecedented times,” says Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. “While this was a very difficult decision, we believe it is appropriate given the unprecedented impact this pandemic has had on everyone, as well as our ability to produce events this year”

Bay State Games remains hopeful that some events may proceed in the fall if and when it is safe to do so. Sport pages on the Bay State Games website will be updated with information as it becomes available. All athletes who have registered for the 2020 Summer Games will be refunded for their registration fee. If the sport you wish to compete in can be held in the fall of 2020, it will require a new registration. For more information, please visit www.baystategames.org. Please direct all questions and inquiries to info@baystategames.org.

Quabbin Valley Baseball League hoping for mid-July start

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going

forward. Sign-ups should resume soon. Based on the governor’s re-open plan, the league is aiming for a start to the season in mid-July with a modified schedule. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

TRACK from page 7

Sofia Tkachenko participated in the high jump last year and placed fifth last year.

Julianna Degray, Nicole Salcinski, Nicole Smith, and Ashley Terron were all returning throwers this season. Amber Maslak was a jumper, and Rochell Lucia-no was a sprinter on last year’s team.

Raymond said there was only disap-

pointment in not having an outdoor season last year. He said the cancellation has been hard on the seniors.

While contact has been limited since the pandemic began, he has been able to make some contact with his team.

“I was able to deliver some gear to our seniors the other day and it was great to see them,” said Raymond. “They were all taking it hard but they are doing their best right now.”

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Hampden, ss. Western Division Housing Court
Docket No. 19-CV-958 City of Chicopee v. The Heirs and Assigns of Genevieve A Taylor
NOTICE OF HEARING TO APPOINT RECEIVER
To: The Heirs and Assigns of Genevieve A Taylor; Debra Burns, Nancy Provost, Lori Buzzard, Scott Taylor

A Petition to Enforce the State Sanitary Code has been filed in the Western Division Housing Court concerning the property located at 54 Alfred Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts. The City of Chicopee has filed a motion to appoint a receiver to take control of the property located at 54 Alfred Street, Chicopee. Any person having a connection to this property is invited to participate in telephone conference with the Western Division Housing Court on **July 2, 2020 at 11:00 am.**

For information on how

to participate in the telephonic hearing, please contact the Chicopee Law Department at 413-594-1520 or the Western Division Housing Court at 413-748-7838. 6/11/2020

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **June 18, 2020** at **Interstate Towing, Inc** the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2001 FORD F350
VIN: 1FDSE35F11HB17724
Unknown

2005 CADILLAC STS
VIN: 1G6DC67A650178855
Richard Edwards
702 S Westfield St
Feeding Hills, MA 01001

2005 MERCURY MARINER

VIN: 4M2YU57165DJ08975
Buraq Jasim
20 Upland Gardens Dr, Apt 9
Worcester, MA 01605

2005 SUBARU FORESTER
VIN: JF1SG656X5H735250
Yashada Kwaning
204 Beacon St, Apt B
Worcester, MA 01610

2007 CHRYSLER PACIFICA
VIN: 2A8GF68X87R290160
Arlene Twining
33 Granville Rd
Southwick, MA 01077

2008 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4BL24E28C146188
David Berbrian/Cody Hennessey
318 River St
Liceester, MA 01524

2009 NISSAN ALTIMA
VIN: 1N4AL21E89C116288
Betty Hendrich
535 Rosedale St, 3D
Bronx, NY 10473

2018 WOLF U50
VIN: L5YACBAW7K1115632
David Mitchell
224 West Main St
Vernon, CT 06066
6/04, 6/11, 6/18/2020

Senior athletes being featured

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

The senior features have already started rolling out, but if you have not seen your senior featured, we encouraged you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that

would have been involved in this spring’s season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn’t.

Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League looking at early July open

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother’s Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans to play its season once bans on gather-

ings are lifted. The league is projecting tryouts in late June with an early July start to the game schedule. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. The rules of the league and new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league’s commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

SOCCER from page 7

hopefully of having a season, even with a delayed start.

Normally, the season would start next week, but games will start under Phase 3, called Vigilant. Teams, in groups 10 and under, can start practicing, however, and the Kolodzieys are taking registrations and starting to organize a schedule that would start sometime shortly after June 30.

So far, the governor’s plan has gone according to the three-week schedule projects for it, which puts Phase 3 on target for that date.

The summer soccer season would likely last at least four weeks through to the end of July, but could also go into August. Diana Kolodziey said that is still being determined.

In their preparations for the upcoming season, the Kolodzieys have also pulled the trigger on a brand new website, www.pioneervalleysummersoccer-league.com.

The new site has a new way of registering teams and is designed to move most of the operations online, such as scheduling and reporting scores and other league information.

The Kolodzieys say will be looking out for the guidance from the governor’s office on exactly how Phase 3 will be implemented as they look to start the season

as soon as possible.

“Our goal is to get players playing and keep everyone safe,” the website states. “So we are looking at a quick turnaround to begin play once we get a thumbs up from the Governor’s Office. We want the league to be ready to go quickly once this happens.”

Teams interested in participating in the league should begin signing up as soon as possible and can email ckolodziey@msn.com for more information. Teams are encouraged to communicate with their school and/or recreation department regarding field availability.

On the new website, there is a link with new rules and regulations for 2020. There will be additional information about such things as social distancing and other safety precautions for the 2020 season. The league is planning to have both the high school and adult seasons.

Based on communications with the various teams that are regularly involved, the Kolodzieys very much want the 2020 summer season to happen.

“Based on the overwhelming feedback we have received,” the website states. “Many teams want to move forward and play understanding that we are up against some unfamiliar challenges.

The site states there will be a “condensed” season, but it unclear how many regular games will be played.

YOUTH from page 7

ships concluding right before the start of youth football season.

Litz confirmed the league is planning to start if and when the state enters Phase 3, which is currently on track to happen on June 30.

While Phase 3 lists “limited crowds” as part of the ability to resume athletic contests at the youth level, Litz has said the main parameter of starting the season will be that no fans will be allowed.

“There will be a maximum of three coaches on the bench and at games,” said Litz. “But once we see what guidance the state gives, then we will also implement other rules.”

The Spec Pond league will be the first basketball that takes place in area since high school basketball was shutdown just shy of the state finals. In youth basketball, the Szalts Memorial Tournament in Chicopee was just beginning when the state banned all recreational activities.

As the state continues its re-opening process, it is possible the Spec Pond League will be able to ease some restrictions in Phase 4, if that phase is implemented sometime in July. Each phase of the governor’s plans is supposed to last three weeks if there are no setbacks. There is a registration packet now available online for the league. To access it, go to <https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=specpond>.

PROTEST from page 1

sitive. Mayor John Vieau chose to remove Wilk from his position following the controversy.

With tensions brewing, the march was preceded by a smaller gathering at the police station a day prior. A June 8 vigil held outside of Chicopee High School would later draw an audience of nearly 100 people.

Each event was a success, but last Saturday's march was the largest. The moment will long be remembered both in and outside of the city.

Jeannette Rivera, a member of Our Revolution Chicopee and the Chicopee Democratic City Committee, explained that the events weren't simply about Floyd or Wilk but rather the history of "systemic racism" that has longed plagued the city. Her patience is running

thin, as her appetite for social change continues to grow.

"We've been educating forever. We're kind of sick of educating," said Rivera. "Racism is everywhere. It's been taught for hundreds of years. We're born into a system that was created by a select few and structured to oppress. We're in a system that is so oppressive that if you're not being oppressed, you can't even see it."

When "white privilege" is mentioned, Rivera encourages Caucasians to be less reactionary and more understanding and proactive. She added that the city could benefit from a city councilor of color or an increased amount of minority educators.

Miranda believes that knowledge is the tool that is best-suited to crush racism. While most community members are well-intentioned, many miss the overall

purpose of the ongoing campaign and, therefore, are unable to contribute he said.

"Right now, we are seeing that a lot of people in the community that have not been well-informed and not well-educated on the topic of race," said Miranda. "The detractors to our cause are precisely people who are not educated, whether it's not their fault or they're willfully ignorant. Education is a big component. If we want to plant seeds for a better future and educational reform that includes this diversity clause and accountability, it's very important."

He emphasized the mantra that "silence is violence." Regardless of where loyalties lie, Miranda urges all law enforcement officers to report racial injustices that are observed on the job and said doing the right thing should no longer be optional.

"If you're not the bad cop, then show

me that you can speak up. Show that you can call out the bad behavior. Unless you can show me that you can call that out, then you're going to fall in the same bucket as the rest that remain silent and complacent," said Miranda.

During the June 6 rally, Chicopee Police Lt. Holly Davis addressed the crowd, a task that would have traditionally been relegated to Wilk. She assured the crowd that the department will expand upon its perspective moving forward.

"We acknowledge, as a community, that we can do better and we acknowledge, as a police department, that we can do better," said Davis. "We can do better to hear you and to listen to you. We recognize that you are here to have your voices heard and we are all listening. We believe in equality, protection of all, compassion and are dedicated to open communication with all."



Protesters make their presence felt with a variety of chants and signs in front of the Public Safety Complex June 6.



Lauren Driscoll and her daughter Kaylynn Tyler prepare to march to the Public Safety Complex on June 6.



Johnny Miranda, chair of the Chicopee Cultural Council, expresses his disgust of racism outside the Chicopee Police Station June 6.



Protesters kneel and raise their fists in solidarity, calling for an end to racial injustice.



Over the past week, protesters of all skin colors and backgrounds have participated in numerous events in the city, raising awareness and opening eyes to racial injustice.



Chicopee police officers stand outside the Public Safety Complex, bearing witness to a protest calling for an end to racial injustice June 6.

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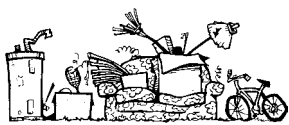
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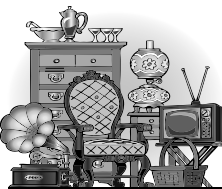
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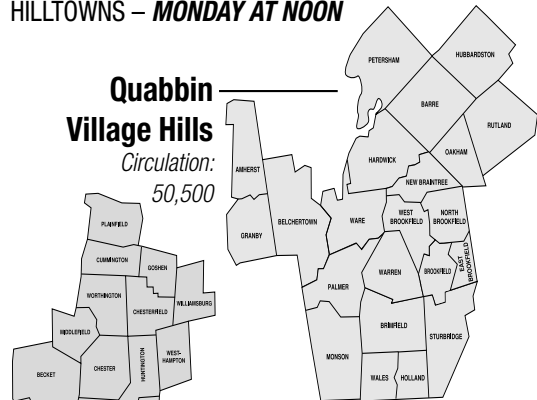
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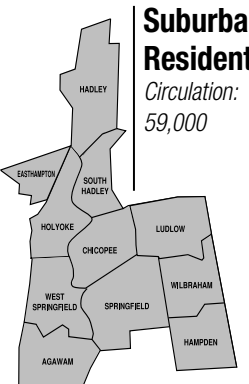
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The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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Audit urges improvements to waitlist, attendance monitoring statewide

BOSTON – In a recent audit of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, state Auditor Suzanne M. Bump identified weaknesses in its new systems to administer access to and operation of adult education programs. Areas singled out for improvement included maintenance of waiting lists, accuracy of attendance records and monitoring visits at AE providers. The audit examined the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. “The commonwealth’s adult education program provides these learners ways to improve their lives and those of their families, and has wider community and economic benefits. We all benefit from a robust adult education system. Our finding recommends specific ways to get the most from DESE’s new system,” Bump said of the audit. “I commend the agency for responding thoughtfully and resolutely.” Bump’s office reviewed attendance records for 60 AE courses and found inaccuracies in 59 of them, including instances of students who were recorded as absent but were present and students who were recorded as present but were actually absent. In its response, DESE points to a transition between data systems as the source of this issue and indicates it is taking steps to resolve it. The audit notes AE program funding is awarded based on student attendance and without accurate attendance data, DESE cannot ensure equitable distribution of funding to AE providers. Additionally, the audit showed DESE did not ensure waitlist information tracked by third-party AE providers was complete, accurate and up to date. The audit notes this could prevent interested students from accessing AE programs and could result in ineffective planning and assessment of demand. DESE indicated the same transition between data systems was the source of this issue and committed to addressing it. A 2014 audit of DESE found similar issues related to waitlists for charter schools. Finally, the audit found the agency did not

always perform regularly scheduled site visits for AE providers and did not consistently follow its risk-based approach for scheduling these provider monitoring visits. The AE program offers free educational assistance to Massachusetts residents who are 16 years and older and who are not enrolled in high school. Providers include community-based organizations, religious institutions, local governments (through their school systems) and correctional facilities. The program is funded by both state and federal grants administered by DESE. During the audit period, DESE granted \$39,927,932 to AE providers; \$30,019,765 of this consisted of state appropriations and \$9,908,167 consisted of federal appropriations.

BHN clinic opens outpatient clinic for substance use disorders

SPRINGFIELD – Behavioral Health Network announced the opening of a new outpatient clinic for the treatment of substance use disorders on its Liberty Street campus. The clinic offers medically supervised methadone in addition to suboxone, vivitrol, other FDA approved medications and counseling. BHN offers a full continuum of care and services in Springfield for those in addiction recovery. Recovery programs include acute treatment (detox), residential recovery homes, clinical stabilization, outpatient treatment and Driver Alcohol Education services. The new clinic will serve those who have started medication treatment for their addiction in other health care facilities or can be a first step in starting medication treatment for their addiction. FDA-approved medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies will provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. The new clinic will be open seven days per week and is located at 395 Liberty St., sharing building space with other BHN programs. The campus also houses a crisis center, The Living Room, other 24-hour treatment programs, an adult outpatient clinic, care coordination and outreach services, and administrative offices.

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Red Cross: Urgent need for blood donations

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood donations to prevent another blood shortage as hospitals resume surgical procedures and patient treatments that were temporarily paused earlier this spring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate in the weeks and months ahead by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Amazon Echo device. In recent weeks, hospital demand for blood products has grown by 30 percent after sharply declining in early April amid this rapidly changing and complex public health crisis. At the same time, blood drives continue to be canceled as many businesses and community organizations remain closed. Donors are needed to make and keep scheduled appointments to help meet the current need. The Red Cross reminds donors that red blood cells must be transfused within 42 days of donation and platelets within just five days. So, they must constantly be replenished. There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus, and the Red Cross urgently needs the help of donors and blood drive hosts to ensure blood products are readily available for patients.

Those looking to donate may do so daily at the Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive in Springfield, at various times. More information is available at RedCrossBlood.org. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements. Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App. The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. For more information, visit redcross.org.

To advertise in the Chicopee Register, contact Wendy Delcamp at wdelcamp@turley.com

PRICING UPDATE: We have some good news to report here at 90 Meat – FALLING PRICES! In addition to our sales items, regular prices of most fresh beef, pork, and chicken dropped for the first time today since before this pandemic started. Now we understand they are not back to “normal” but we anticipate this trend to continue for the next few weeks. We are optimistic that soon we will achieve our ultimate goal of B.C. Pricing – Before Corona Pricing. Please stay tuned as we are working diligently to get our loyal customers the best prices possible.

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